

# DRAFT



## Minutes Nevada Homeland Security Commission Quarterly Meeting

### ATTENDANCE

<b>DATE</b>	13 September 2005
<b>TIME</b>	1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
<b>LOCATION</b>	401 S Carson St – Carson City 555 W Washington – Las Vegas
<b>METHOD</b>	Teleconference between sites
<b>RECORDER</b>	Denise Parsons

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Staff &amp; Others in Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>
Dr. Dale Carrison, Chairman	X	Glade Myler, Attorney General's Office	X
Jerry Keller, Vice-Chairman	X	Frank Siracusa, Director, Division of Emergency Mgmt	X
Maureen Peckman	X	Kamala Carmazzi, Deputy Director, DEM	X
Robert Hadfield	X	Dr. Christopher Lake, Nevada Hospital Association	
Ellen Knowlton	X	Dr. Bradford Lee, NV State Health Department	
Gonzalo Cordova	X	Heidi Sakelarios, Director, Health Preparedness	X
Robert Fisher	X	Giles Vanderhoof, Homeland Security Administrator	X
Earl Greene	X	Donald Pierce, Executive Director, WASPC	X
Jim Spinello	X	David Knowlton, AIC, Federal Air Marshall Service, LV	X
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X	Valerie Sumner, Homeland Security Administrators Office	X
Bill Welch	X	Larry Casey, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
William Young	X	Denise Parsons, Homeland Security Commission Staff	X
Dennis Balaam	X		
Assemblyman William Horne	X		
Senator Dennis Nolan			

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 1:30 pm Chairman Carrison called the meeting to order. Larry Casey called the roll. 14 members were present, 1 was absent, and so a quorum was established.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Carrison stated that approval of the minutes would be postponed until later in the meeting.

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### **3. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Carrison stated that hurricane Katrina is the type of event that the Commission is trying to prepare for. Commission members will learn from this experience and report back to make Nevada stronger for an All-Hazard event. Vice-Chairman Keller concurred. He stated, that disaster knows no boundaries and that Katrina should bring focus on the importance of timeliness of mission. Mr. Spinello wanted it noted that HSC has been involved with the Katrina recovery effort. Currently, there are 1,400 Mississippi/Louisiana residents residing in Nevada as a result of the hurricane. FEMA & local organizations have gotten together to bring people here and NV is prepared to accept 300 more. The Governor has declared NV a state of emergency and many organizations are helping with the effort.

Glade Myler provided a legal update – California has adopted EMAC – Emergency Management Assistant Compact. If Nevada is called to respond during an incident, it will be in accordance with this compact.

Chairman Carrison motioned to approve the minutes of the 7 July Commission Meeting. Motion seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **4. OVERVIEW OF WASHINGTON STATEWIDE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE MAPPING PROJECT**

Donald G. Pierce, Executive Director, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) provided a short bio and briefly discussed the mission of WASPC. He stated that WASPC originated out of the school safety committee and legislature and is currently recognized as a combination of unification of local government. WASPC developed a pilot program to digitally map local area high schools, including pre-tactical planning such as where command posts and perimeters are located, and house that information in a database that is accessible to first responders. The pilot developed specific standards for critical infrastructure mapping, and was considered a success after a major incident at a local high school was averted. The school was able to immediately evacuate; and the system was accessible to first responders. As a result of this success, the program was expanded statewide to map all of the High Schools. Currently, they are in the process of mapping the critical infrastructure of all elementary and middle schools in Washington State. The program takes into account the following:

- All first responders decide in advance how to respond.
- Issues with radio communication.
- Voice communication interoperability.
- Mapping according to established standards.
- Everyone's data is password protected.

Chairman Carrison stated that Washington has done a wonderful job. He asked if they could've done so well without legislature approval?

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Mr. Pierce replied that no, they couldn't have done it without working through state dollars. State money was extremely helpful. However, he stated that the majority of the money had been provided by individual entities. Value has been demonstrated from interest from the private sector.

Mr. Cordova asked, what kind of volume from the private sector?

Mr. Pierce responded that the private sector has concerns about mapping and that the information may become available to the general public—it is a slow process. The ACLU has already contacted them about making data public.

Mr. Welch asked if they are mapping hospitals?

Mr. Pierce responded that some dollars are available for hospitals, and there is certainly a need to map them. However, they are only in preliminary discussions with the hospitals and haven't yet begun mapping.

Mr. Pierce proposed forming a partnership with fire chiefs and principals to bring people together. He stated that he would be happy to work with the HSC – show a demo – and is ready to help in any way.

Chairman Carrison stated that if the past (Columbine) is any indication of future events, incidents do happen in schools. The ostrich with its head in the sand approach doesn't work. Each segment must be prepared - all groups must work together.

### **5. LEGISLATIVE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Spinello discussed changes to the by-laws. He stated that an area of issue is the number of committees – and that it has been streamlined to include: legislative & by-laws, finance, and communication. Another issue is the non-voting member language in SB 380. He suggested that the Commission ask the legislature to clarify the language.

Dr. Carrison motioned to approve the by-laws as written. It was seconded. The by-laws as written were unanimously approved.

Dr. Carrison stated that Mr. Cordova, as a member of DHS was originally supposed to be an ex-officio member and not a voting member. However the language in SB380 changed his position to a voting member. He directed the Legislative and By-Laws committee to include this in their Bill Draft Request to the Legislature changing the language from SB 380.

### **6. FEDERAL AGENCY PROTOCOLS WHEN WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

Mr. Spinello wanted it noted that he placed this item on the agenda before hurricane Katrina and in no way was this a blame issue. The intent was to put into place a recommendation utilizing DEM as a method to pass information on to the Feds. He stated that in the past, there were some instances of "self-

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deployment” and in doing so, leadership and assets that were available, were denied.

Chairman Carrison recommended postponing discussion on this item, and adding it to the agenda of the December HSC meeting.

Mr. Keller asked, who makes decisions and who’s in charge? Make tabletop mental exercises in preparation for incidents. He stated that every opportunity must be taken to learn from hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Greene asked, clarifications on agreements? How would it work?

Mr. Siracusa concurred with Mr. Keller and stated that he would be happy to pull together local emergency managers and have a future meeting. He stated that they are already beginning to look at the lessons learned from hurricane Katrina and that he would be happy to look into the process and brief the commission.

Mr. Siracusa also stated that 49 states have now come on board to EMAC. He would be happy to brief the commission on how EMAC works within the State.

Mr. Young complimented Mr. Siracusa and stated that the process works very well.

Mr. Keller said that he thought there were concerns over who’s in charge and who can sign what document?

Mr. Young replied that we are concerned with our process here. If we needed resources, where would we go? And, who is assigned that responsibility?

Chairman Carrison recommended that this item be added to the agenda of the December Commission meeting.

Mr. Myler stated that he has a local document that mirrors EMAC and that he is in the process of getting the counties and other entities on board.

Mr. Welch stated that he supports Mr. Siracusa, and that the hospital community has been pressured recently and needs to know where the resources are. He also stated that he sees this as an opportunity to educate those on the Federal level.

Mr. Vanderhoof concurred with Mr. Siracusa and stated that it should come from a State emergency management leader. Also, “the state will not be in a position to tell the Feds how to do it better.”

Chairman Carrison added, that even though Louisiana had tabletop exercises, it wasn’t applied during an emergency.

Mr. Young added, the number one problem was that there was no unity of command and that they needed to get their act together.

Mr. Greene seconded the motion to make this an agenda item for the December commission meeting.

### **7. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBER**

Chairman Carrison introduced the newest member of the Homeland Security Commission, Gonzalo Cordova, Protective Security Advisor - Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Cordova stated that his mission was to identify and assist in critical infrastructure protection, and to participate in the vulnerability assessment network with the state and local agencies. He thanked Gwen Hadd, Giles Vanderhoof and Sheriff Young, and stated that he is here to support the State

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Homeland Security Administrator. He also stated that he is focused on the State of Nevada and is here to support the primary federal officer, and feels that he has cemented a good relationship so far with the local government.

Chairman Carrison recommended taking a break at 2:38 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 2:51 pm.

### **8. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION**

Mr. Hadfield gave a brief status of the Statewide Vulnerability Assessment and mentioned the following timeline:

August 1 – begin

September – December data collection

January 2006 – report to the Commission

Mr. Hadfield stated that the Finance Committee had expressed concern about confidentiality and that Mr. Myler worked on the issue and received an executive order from the Governor that all information will be confidential unless the commission determines that it can be made public.

Mr. Hadfield stated that Katrina has changed priorities. He stated that funds for elevated alerts will not be available for allocation, and that a change in formula is in progress.

The following are the Finance Committee's recommendations:

1. FY06- recommend very critical focus on each entity to include at least one planning and training exercise. Have a record of conducting exercises in S. Nevada. Make sure that equipment is functional, people are trained and exercises are conducted regardless of funding.
2. Make provision for funding for higher incident alerts. Need to set aside money from local funds as part of any funding formula. Since we currently have no idea about FY06 funding and what the restrictions will be, continue to proceed along the same lines of funding.
3. Keep in place the present funding formula.

Chairman Carrison asked, "Will Katrina change the funding cycle?"

Mr. Siracusa responded, "We have no new information from ODP or DHS".

Chairman Carrison motioned to accept the recommendations from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Keller asked if an amount could be established?

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Mr. Hadfield stated that each event cost between 200-300K, and suggested waiting to see if they might be included in a formula.

Ms. Carmazzi provided additional information:

LETPP – allows up to 25% of total; 15% for orange, and 10% for yellow.

UASI – 25% should be set aside at the discretion of local government.

Mr. Keller asked what the total funds were for FY05?

Ms. Carmazzi responded that the total funds were 28 million in the State.

Additionally, only LETPP can be utilized and Clark County can use UASI – set aside 2 million.

Ms. Carmazzi also stated that the Commission can designate up to 25% of funds.

The motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendations was seconded.

### **9. PROGRESS REPORT OF ALL OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS (ODP) GRANTS ALLOCATED BY THE NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO INCLUDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TRIBAL NATIONS AND STATE GOVERNMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Mr. Siracusa gave an overview of FY04 Funding and indicated that 40% has been expended so far and that everything is right on track. He indicated that he would let the commission know if there were any problems.

Mr. Keller asked if there are any grant expenditures that would not reach goal?

Mr. Siracusa responded, "no".

### **10. REVIEW OF THE INITIAL DRAFT OF THE 2005 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR**

Mr. Casey reviewed a draft of the 2005 Report to Governor and identified a need to set up some future goals that the Commission would focus its attention on. He proposed a series of five issues for the Commission:

1. Resolution of SB380 language and preparation of a Bill Draft Request to the Legislative Committee.
2. Use results of the Statewide Vulnerability Assessment to update funding model and to insure programs are in place to equip, train, and assess those vulnerable areas.
3. Ensure school districts are integrated into homeland security and emergency management planning.
4. Continue efforts to implement improvements to communications and systems interoperability.

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5. Review various emergency response plans in the state to insure that address concerns/lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina.

Chairman Carrison concurred.

Mr. Hadfield mentioned to “keep it simple.”

Mr. Vanderhoof stated that it looked good. However, two of the items are currently in the State Security Strategy. He will work with Larry in parallel.

### **11. FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE FOR SMALL COUNTY CONCERNS/REQUIREMENTS**

Mr. Casey recommended the formation of a task force to study and develop proposals/solutions for the Commission addressing concerns/problems/requirements from the smaller counties in Nevada.

Mr. Fisher attended training sessions in Carlin & Winnemucca and mentioned a need for a “hands on” in the rural counties to better understand the needs of both.

Chairman Carrison stated that the Commission gets criticism from the small counties and that it needs to recognize problems with the rural areas and voice their concerns.

A motion was presented to set up a task force to come up with a priority list of concerns of the rural counties and communities. The motion passed.

### **12. HOMELAND SECURITY COMMISSION COORDINATION WITH NEVADA SCHOOL DISTRICTS REPORT**

Mr. Casey presented a report to the Commission regarding concerns that the School Districts have for the Commission.

Mr. Casey stated that Carson City, Clark County, and Washoe County are the most advanced.

Chairman Carrison stated that he envisions a task force that will coordinate issues between the school districts and the Commission.

### **13. BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) UPDATE**

General Kirkland gave a brief update on BRAC. She stated that during rescue operations, Nevada was the first to respond with their National Guard to Louisiana, 2 days after the hurricane. This would not have been possible if the aircraft weren't available. She then thanked all the Commission for their support.

### **14. STATE SECURITY STRATEGY UPDATE**

Mr. Vanderhoof provided a Nevada Homeland Security Strategy update.

He stated that the strategy would be broad, and non-specific and an update would be provided by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

He indicated that obtaining county data was a problem, and that clear data was needed. He stressed an “all hazards” funding form approach, and indicated that there are currently two bills in the works to give us tourist-based funding.

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Further, he stated that while Katrina will influence “all hazards”, it wouldn’t change the state strategy, and the language would be adjusted accordingly. Mr. Vanderhoof indicated that Nevada is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> for a danger of seismic incidents and that there are other hazards such as flooding – money will be short. Mr. Young stressed major redirection and indicated that we should not set the goals too high.

Mr. Keller asked whether or not “receiving evacuees from other areas would be incorporated into the State Strategy?”

Mr. Vanderhoof responded, “yes, we do need to think about that – it should be included in.”

Ms. Peckman added, “2000 evacuees from Louisiana found their own way here”.

### **15. OVERVIEW OF HOMELAND SECURITY EVENT – NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION IN LAS VEGAS**

David Knowlton, AIG, Federal Air Marshall Service, briefly discussed his role as coordinator for the New Year’s Eve celebration in Las Vegas.

He indicated that he is here to support, and won’t be setting up a separate command post, and will not replace the local incident command center.

He also indicated that Mr. Cordova has been tasked.

### **16. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Carrison asked if there was anyone who would like to make a public comment? There were none.

### **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Carrison motioned for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Meeting notes completed by Denise Parsons, for questions call (702) 632-0509 or email [deniseparsons@state.nv.us](mailto:deniseparsons@state.nv.us)